

### *Amendments to the Claims*

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A configurable ~~RAID~~ Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:
  - a user data array ~~connected~~ accessible to a user application via a block ~~I/O~~ input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application; and
  - a configuration array ~~connected~~ accessible to a configuration application via the same block I/O path.
2. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 1 wherein the user data array processes user data access commands executed by the user application, and the configuration application processes configuration commands, the user data access commands and the configuration commands communicated to the user data array and the configuration array respectively via the block I/O path.
3. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 1 further comprising:
  - block storage devices to physically store user data of the user data array.

4. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 1 wherein the user data array includes a dynamic identification assigned by the configuration array, and the configuration array includes a static configuration identification.
5. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 1 further comprising:
  - means for assembling and executing a configuration write command in the configuration application;
  - means for processing the configuration write command in the configuration array; and
  - means for returning status on the processing of the configuration write command to the configuration application via the block I/O path.
6. (Previously Presented) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 1 wherein the configuration application reads a predetermined block of the configuration array to obtain an associated application identification.
7. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 6 further comprising:
  - means for assembling and executing a configuration write command in the configuration application, the configuration write command including a request to read a configuration information data structure and the application identification;
  - means for processing the configuration write command in the configuration array;

means for assembling and executing a configuration read command in the configuration application, the configuration read command including the application identification;

means for processing the configuration read command in the configuration array;  
and

means for returning the requested configuration information data structure and status to the configuration application.

8. (Currently amended) A method for configuring a ~~RAID~~ Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:

processing user data access commands executed by a user application in a user data array of the RAID subsystem ~~connected~~ accessible to the user application by a block ~~I/O~~ input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to interface the user data array to the user application; and

processing configuration commands executed by a configuration application in a configuration array of the RAID subsystem ~~connected~~ accessible to the configuration application via the block I/O path.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

storing user data of the user data array on block storage devices.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

assigning a dynamic identification to the user data array by the configuration array; and

assigning a static identification to the configuration array.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

assembling and executing a configuration write command in the configuration application;

processing the configuration write command in the configuration array; and

returning status on the processing of the configuration write command to the configuration application.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

reading a predetermined block of the configuration array by the configuration application to obtain an associated application identification.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

assembling and executing a configuration write command in the configuration application, the configuration write command including a request to read a configuration information data structure and the application identification;

processing the configuration write command in the configuration array;

assembling and executing a configuration read command in the configuration application, the configuration read command including the application identification;

processing the configuration read command in the configuration array; and

returning the requested configuration information data structure and status to the configuration application.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising:  
receiving a configuration write command in the configuration array;  
locking associated internal data structures of the RAID subsystem;  
processing the configuration write command;  
unlocking associated internal data structures of the RAID subsystem; and  
returning status to the configuration application upon completion of the processing.

15. (Currently amended) A configurable RAID Redundant Array of Independent Disks (RAID) subsystem, comprising:

a user data array for processing user data access commands executed by a user application;

a configuration array for processing configuration commands executed by a configuration application; and

a single block ~~I/O~~ input/output (I/O) path, the block I/O path comprising one or more programs configured to connecting interface the user data array to the user application and the configuration array to the configuration application.

16. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 15 wherein the user data array includes a dynamic identification assigned by the configuration array, and the configuration array includes a static configuration identification.

17. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 15 further comprising:  
a plurality of user data arrays each having an associated dynamic identification assigned by the configuration array; and  
a plurality of configuration applications each having an associated application identification assigned by the configuration array.

18. (Original) The configurable RAID subsystem of claim 15 wherein the user application and configuration application execute only block I/O write and read commands to access the user data array and the configuration array via the block I/O path.